



The Royal College of **Pathologists**

Pathology: the science behind the cure

## RCPATH President's newsletter – September 2025



### President's Message

#### Another [Carter Review](#)...

While few of us at the College would have welcomed another review of pathology services, it is happening, and we must ensure we engage fully with the process. Many of you will remember previous Carter reviews, which focused largely on identifying unwarranted variation in pathology spend. While this can be a worthwhile exercise, it is vital that the right data is used, that the data is accurate, consistent and fair, and that it does not result in a race to the bottom. This is especially important if confounders such as quality, patient safety, clinical work and level of specialist services are not taken into account when pointing out apparent low productivity. The College will try to ensure that does not happen.

This review comes at a time when the NHS is in deep financial trouble with additional workforce crises hitting almost every sector. We would hope that this review takes the opportunity to highlight the value of pathology, the workforce shortages, the very poor state of buildings and IT, and the risks to quality and patient safety. Simply identifying apparent unwarranted variation in laboratory spend to drive yet more consolidation will, in our view, be wholly wrong for healthcare, especially when many services are in such a fragile state. Instead, we need to emphasise how pathology can bring solutions to many of the issues across healthcare if the appropriate investments are made.

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It's been a year since the Darzi report, with the 10-Year Health Plan for England following along after that. This Carter review can be an opportunity to focus on what pathology does, what it needs and what it can deliver. **Our voice is being heard and Lord Carter's team is listening.**

### **Government meetings**

In the last few weeks, the medical royal college presidents have been given unprecedented access to the Secretary of State, Wes Streeting, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Zubir Ahmed, and new chair of NHSE, Penny Dash. This has allowed much in the way of frank, honest discussion, with the plea for colleges to help in whatever way to realise the 10-Year Health Plan and other healthcare developments.

It was made clear, however, that there are severe financial challenges centrally, with a view now being pushed that the NHS is over-funded, over-staffed and showing significant drops in productivity since 2019, despite record funding and staff increases.

The Government has just announced the call for evidence for the [10-Year Workforce Plan](#) for England. Rather than looking at what staff we need to maintain current models, they are seeking to redesign healthcare and then asking what workforce is needed to meet that redesign.

There is an expectation that the existing workforce will need to work differently, taking advantage of new technology and innovation in particular. This outlines the environment in which the College now needs to operate. We will make sure our voice is even louder with regard to the need to invest in pathology services.

The College will use the data from its workforce reports, with your views and opinions submitted as evidence. I would also call on you to make your own, personal submissions. Similar discussions are taking place across the other 3 UK nations to which the College is contributing.

### **October events**

Next month is looking busy for the College. I will be spending a few days in Belfast, meeting politicians, the Chief Medical Officer, NHS leaders, fellows, resident doctors and other trainees. The RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium will be the main event on 22 October.

We will also host our Industry Leaders' Forum on Wednesday 8 October, bringing together the pathology profession and industry to forge much needed collaboration and continued growth of our corporate partners scheme.

I will also attend the UK NEQAS Haematology meeting in Manchester and then, finally, at the end of the month, I will travel to Doha, Qatar to deliver 3 keynote lectures at the inaugural Qatar Conference on Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, as well as touring healthcare facilities and meeting some of our fellows and trainees in the area.

### **Examination issues**

Every year, we deliver a complex array of specialist examinations – 67 different exams in total. Despite a well organised, dedicated group of staff, there are occasional issues, many outside of our control. Last week, despite thorough testing of the examination system with our new online examination provider, an unforeseeable technical problem occurred. While only affecting a proportion of those sitting the exams, this fell far short of our usual standards, and I wish to sincerely apologise to all those affected and acknowledge the stress and concerns this caused to candidates.

We are working hard to ensure we can put in place any mitigation necessary and are actively communicating with the GMC and other key stakeholders. We are investigating fully, communicating with all candidates and will make full disclosure when all the details are known.

### **Advocacy and influence**

I met [Sarah Hall MP](#), Labour, Warrington South, with Dr Clair Evans, Chair of the Specialty Advisory Committee on Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology to discuss paediatric services. This was following concerns Sarah Hall raised on the shortage of pathologists to carry out post-mortems, which has a direct effect on services for bereaved families. We know that post-mortem delays cause great distress for families, and we have consistently raised our concerns about the paediatric pathology service with government.

Sarah Hall is working to raise some of these issues in parliament, and we were able to feed in some of the workforce data and concerns that we have as a college. The College co-badged a [briefing and press release](#) with the Royal Colleges of Radiologists, Physicians and Nursing and the Association of Cancer Physicians, urging the

Government to use the National Cancer Plan for England to reform and streamline cancer multidisciplinary teams

The [UK National Screening Committee](#) (NSC) has a total of 15 vacancies to fill on 3 of its expert advisory groups: the foetal, maternal and child health group, adult reference group, and research and methodology group. Full details of the roles and how to apply can be found on the [UK NSC Blog](#). This is an opportunity to get involved in an independent committee that advises ministers and the NHS in the 4 UK countries about all aspects of population screening and supports implementation of screening programmes.

**Dr Bernie Croal**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
X: [@RCPath](#)

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### **Working for members**

#### **Endorsement of *The Haematology Workforce: a comprehensive view***

The College has endorsed the British Society of Haematology's (BSH) publication of [The Haematology Workforce: a comprehensive view](#), which recognises the vital role of clinical-pathology and laboratory work in the rapid diagnosis and clinical

management of haematological diseases. The College agrees with the findings in the report that robust workforce planning is needed to actively align the haematology workforce with local and regional need – based on population, diagnostic demand, working patterns and succession planning. Recognition of unrecorded hours, investment in staffing and improved wellbeing initiatives are also critical in supporting and retaining the overstretched workforce. Find out more [here](#).

### **Pathology Portal**

Last month, the Pathology Portal celebrated 3 years since it opened – reaching over 6,000 users and more than 375,000 launches in that time. With exams underway and an influx of new trainees, it has been an exciting time for the Pathology Portal as we hear feedback from those who have benefited from the 6,800 resources, but also those reaching out for the first time to gain access and contribute.

The Pathology Portal team will also be trialling some drop-in sessions for those who would like to learn more about the Portal. Details are available on the website and on the College social media channels.

Please feel free to get in touch with the team at [pathologyportal@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyportal@rcpath.org) and for more information and to sign up, visit the [College website](#)!

### **[RCPath Industry Leaders Forum 2025 \(virtual\)](#)**

**14:00–16:00, Wednesday 8 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 3**

Join leading figures from across pathology and industry for an engaging programme of talks and panel discussions. We'll share an update on corporate engagement at the College, and invited speakers will present on areas of alignment in the '3 shifts' that are the focus of the NHS 10-Year Health Plan: prevention, shift to digital and community-based care.

Speakers include College President, Dr Bernie Croal, Vice President for Workforce and Corporate Engagement, Professor Peter Johnston, chemical pathologist and specialist in metabolic medicine, Professor Carel Le Roux, and Illumina's NHS, OFH and Genomics England Liaison, Dr Marion Burdin PhD. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

### **[Opportunities for infection diagnostics in the shift from hospital to community care](#)**

**12:30, Wednesday 22 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Join us for this free lunchtime webinar on point-of-care testing (POCT). Speakers will discuss the challenges of providing a high quality POCT service in the community and of working across systems on new community pathways. They will talk about using technology to respond to errors, troubleshoot and remotely monitor the use of a service, lessons learned and the importance of real-world evidence to support the changes required for successful implementation. The webinar is being delivered in partnership with bioMérieux, and will last approximately 1 hour. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

### **Get involved in National Pathology Week (3–9 November)**

National Pathology Week (NPW) is the UK's annual celebration of pathology. Organised by the College in partnership with the Pathology Alliance, NPW highlights the essential work pathologists and laboratory scientists do to diagnose and prevent disease. The theme for 2025 is 'Pathology Solutions', a reflection of the advances being made in pathology to improve disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The College and Pathology Alliance invite all members to support NPW by organising local or hospital-based activities – in-person or online.

Visit our [resources section](#) for planning tips, event ideas and free downloadable [activity packs](#). If you're already planning an event, don't forget to register it [on our website](#) so it can be included in the national programme. You can download NPW logos and other digital assets from the [NPW page](#) and you can order promotional materials [here](#).

### **Educational Update 2025 meeting**

**09:45–12:00, Friday 7 November**

This annual meeting will be held remotely on Friday 7 November 2025 at 9:45am to 12:00pm. The theme is 'Future of Training' and the keynote speaker is Professor Geoff Smith, Interim Medical Director, Education Reform. This event is principally for trainers and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and medical virology specialties. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend. The programme and how to book your place is [available here](#).

### **[Pathology Careers Webinar – Forensic Pathology](#)**

**18:00, Thursday 16 October**

This online event will shine a spotlight on careers in forensic pathology. Our speakers are consultant Dr Matt Lyall and trainee Dr Theodore Estrin-Serlui. The session (to be held on Zoom) aims to give medical students and foundation doctors a comprehensive introduction to this fascinating pathology specialty. The speakers will make time for questions. Join us for this exciting and unique event – book your place for [free](#).

## **Get involved in the College**

### **Join the Trainees' Advisory Committee**

We are inviting applications from trainees interested in joining the Trainees' Advisory Committee, which represents all specialties and College regions. TAC Members play an active role by attending committee meetings, participating in discussions and ensuring trainees' views are shared within their specialty. This is a valuable opportunity to influence how your specialty is organised, network with peers, contribute to College activities and support your professional development. Roles currently available include:

- Immunology Trainee Representative

- Toxicology Trainee Representative
- Dermatopathology Trainee Representative
- Veterinary Microbiology Pathology Trainee Representative
- Cytopathology Trainee Representative
- Transfusion Medicine Trainee Representative
- Genomics Trainee Representative.

Successful applicants will be expected to attend 4 Trainees' Advisory Committee meetings each year and 2 Specialty Advisory Committee meetings, providing updates on behalf of their specialty. Applications must be submitted using the [nomination form](#) by **17:00 on Friday 10 October 2025**.

### **LEPT drop-in sessions**

These sessions are for all trainees but may be more beneficial for new trainees who started pathology training since August 2025.

The Teams meeting joining details for the sessions are available on your ePortfolio homepage.

For further information, please contact the LEPT Team at [assessment@rcpath.org](mailto:assessment@rcpath.org).

## **International news**

### **Attend our virtual conference for International Pathology Day 09:45–14:35, Wednesday 5 November 2025**

Join us at our virtual conference as we celebrate the vital contributions of pathology professionals around the world. This year's theme, 'The global pathology workforce', highlights the dedication and expertise of pathologists and laboratory scientists who are at the heart of healthcare systems across the world.

We are delighted to welcome Jim Campbell, Director of Health Workforce at the World Health Organization, who will open the event in conversation with Professor Peter Johnston, Vice President for Workforce and Corporate Engagement.

This special event will be chaired by the President of the Royal College of Pathologists, Dr Bernie Croal, and is sponsored and hosted in partnership with the [BSH](#) and [Diagnexia](#).

The event will focus on the following areas:

- tackling the global pathology workforce shortage
- digital pathology as a scalable solution
- aligning qualifications and training across borders
- advancing patient care and global health equity

Discover more conference highlights, including the roundtable discussion and poster competition and secure your place via [our event page](#). Let's celebrate the global pathology workforce together!



### **Enter a poster into the International Pathology Day poster competition**

Reflecting on this year's International Pathology Day (IPD) overarching theme, 'The global pathology workforce', we invite you to submit a poster focusing on celebrating the impact of pathology. You can work individually or as a team from anywhere around the world and in any pathology speciality, and your poster should outline one of the following:

- spotlight any pathology-related work you are especially proud of
- showcase your laboratory work
- highlight your innovative research.

Posters can be submitted until midnight on Tuesday 21 October. Access the competition's terms and conditions, downloadable poster templates and information on prizes to be won from [our event page](#).

### **Join us for a free webinar series The hidden hazard: Recognising and preventing burnout**

The series begins on Wednesday 19 November and will run weekly from 15:00–16:30, concluding on Wednesday 10 December.

This 4-part webinar series, led by Jayne Morris (the UK's leading executive burnout coach and founder of Balanceology), will explain some of the key causes of burnout and offers a compassionate, evidence-based approach to preventing burnout, building resilience and fostering sustainable working practices.

Each session is grounded in neuroscience, informed by lived experiences and designed to spark reflection, discussion and practical action.

These webinars are appropriate for all career stages, whether you lead teams or want to support the wellbeing of your colleagues or organisation. This series will help you to create healthier working environments starting with care for yourself and your teams.

You will need to register for each webinar separately via the below links:

#### **[Understanding burnout: What it is and why it matters](#)**

15:00, Wednesday 19 November

#### **[Spotting burnout in your team: A guide for managers and leaders](#)**

15:00, Wednesday 26 November

#### **[Burnout in the system: Understanding organisational contributors](#)**

15:00, Wednesday 3 December

#### **[Burnout and belonging: Supporting cultural transitions in the UK workplace](#)**

15:00, Wednesday 10 December





## Regional news

### [RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2025](#) (3 CPD credits)

**09:30–13:00: Wednesday 22 October 2025 (followed by lunch and Trainee Forum)**

**Venue: Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB**

This is a free and in-person only event.

We are pleased to invite you to attend the [RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2025](#), taking place on Wednesday 22 October 2025 at the Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Belfast City Hospital.

This year's symposium brings together a diverse range of expert speakers to share insights and developments in pathology, with sessions covering molecular discoveries, cervical screening, artificial intelligence, HCV elimination, lysosomal storage disorders, the role of forensic pathology and an update from the College President, Dr Bernie Croal. The programme will also include:

- a complimentary lunch served at 13:00 in the Lobby area
- a special **Trainee Forum** with the RCPATH President from 14:30 to 16:00

Whether you are a consultant, trainee, biomedical scientist or a healthcare professional with an interest in pathology, this event offers a valuable opportunity for professional development and networking.

[Register now for the RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2025.](#)

## New publications

### [Dr Chris Tiplady blog – From here to maternity](#)

In his latest blog, Dr Chris Tiplady discusses the unseen side of being a haematologist on call.

### [Member spotlight – 2024 Silver Research Medal Winner, Dr Jordan Skittrall](#)

One of our 2024 Silver Research Medal winners is Dr Jordan Skittrall, who specialises in medical virology and infectious diseases blogs about his background, research and how he sees the field of virology evolving over the next decade.

## New guidelines

- [G054 Dataset for histopathological reporting of conjunctival melanoma and conjunctival melanocytic intraepithelial lesions](#)
- [G103 Dataset for histopathological reporting of gastrointestinal stromal tumours](#)

## College courses and events

### New Consultants Day 2025 – Virtual

**Tuesday, 14 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

The New Consultants' Day is an event to help and support those recently appointed to a consultant post, or who will soon be taking one up. It is appropriate for all pathology specialties and for both medically trained pathologists and clinical scientists.

You will hear from experienced consultants on a range of topics such as how to prepare a business case to secure resources, how to set up new services and how best to deal with complaints. You will learn more about appraisal, revalidation and job planning, and the experiences of consultant clinical scientists, among other things. It is most suitable for those appointed to a consultant post within the last year, or who expect to be appointed to a consultant post within the next year.

### Autopsy webinar series – Fractured neck of femur

**Wednesday, 15 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This event will take place at 13:00 and last approximately 1 hour.

### Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars – Liver, the weird and the wonderful

**12.30pm, Wednesday 5 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This session will cover the slightly more unusual elements of medical liver disease which we sometimes come across including genetic/inherited liver diseases and more.

This event will take place via Zoom at 12:30 and last approximately 1 hour.

### Autopsy webinar series – Diabetes and the heart

**Wednesday, 19 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This event will take place at 13:00 and last approximately 1 hour.

### Autopsy webinar series – Maternal death, Part 1

**Wednesday, 10 December 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Maternal deaths are rare (only 80–100 pa across the UK) but their autopsies are not generally done well, due to unfamiliarity. These 2 lectures present the overarching context of maternal mortality in the UK, cover the major pathologies of direct and indirect maternal deaths, and inform on how to perform the autopsies optimally.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

### RCPATH/BNS PathExplore; (Neuro)pathology teaching for undergraduates

Are you a medical undergraduate and keen to improve your pathology knowledge? Then why not sign up to the RCPATH/BNS Undergraduate Pathology Teaching?

The teaching is delivered by a group of expert neuropathologists who will teach you about the fundamental aspects of the mechanisms of disease, including inflammation, cancer, infection, thrombosis, infarction, neurodegeneration and much more! As well as basic pathology knowledge, each session will be supplemented with plenty of fascinating case examples from the world of neuropathology!

### **Webinar 1 – Neuroinflammation: Neuropathology perspectives**

**Monday, 6 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

The inflammatory disorders of the central nervous system (CNS) can be primary (inflammation only) or secondary (associated with other disorders such as degenerative or metabolic diseases), and can also be part of the systemic inflammatory diseases. This talk is aimed to provide an overview of primary inflammatory disorders of CNS, with particular emphasis on how neuropathology contributes to the diagnosis and patient management in adult and paediatric settings.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

### **Webinar 2 – Cell death: apoptosis and necrosis**

**Monday, 15 December 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

### **Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – Webinar series**

The College is delighted to announce a webinar series organised jointly with the European Society of Pathology, Virchows Archives and the International Paediatric Pathology Association.

Each of the topics published by Virchows addressing paediatric tumours will be presented at the webinar series.

### **Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 2**

**Wednesday, 17 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Webinar 2 talks:

- Cystic masses of the paediatric lung: update on congenital pulmonary airway malformation and its differential diagnosis – Jennifer Pogoriler
- Germ cell tumours in children – Peter Bode.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

### **Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 3**

**Monday, 13 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Webinar 3 talks:

- Paediatric cancer predisposition syndromes involving non-central nervous system solid paediatric tumours: a review on their manifestations with a focus on histopathology – Ronald de Krijger
- Update on paediatric primary liver tumours – Lola Lopez Terrada.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

#### [Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 4](#)

**Tuesday, 18 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Webinar 4 talks:

- Spitz tumours and mimickers – Arnaud de la Fouchardiere
- Emerging round cell sarcomas in children – Jessica Davis.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

#### [Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 5](#)

**Tuesday, 25 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Webinar 5 talks:

- Paediatric renal tumours: an update on challenges and recent developments – Gino Somers/Maureen O'Sullivan
- Congenital melanocytic neoplasms: clinical, histopathological and recent molecular developments – Claudia Salgado.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

#### [Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 6](#)

**Wednesday, 26 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Webinar 6 talks:

- Updates on Langerhans cell histiocytosis and other histiocytosis in children: invited review – challenges and novelties in paediatric tumours – Laura Galluzzo Mutti
- Paediatric lymphomas: overview and diagnostic challenges – Leticia Quintanilla.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

#### [National Pathology Week](#)

**Student focused virtual event**

**18:00–20:00, Wednesday 5 November**

A virtual event for sixth form and medical students titled [Pathology Solutions: How Tests Help Patients](#) will take place on Wednesday 5 November from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Delivered in partnership with the Pathology Alliance, this free event will feature short, engaging talks explaining how pathology tests support prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Find out more information, and how to book a place, [here](#).

**Undergraduate quiz****14:00, Wednesday 12 November**

The NPW and IPD teams are jointly hosting a special online pathology quiz for undergraduates on Wednesday 12 November at 14:00. Those studying relevant undergraduate courses anywhere in the world will be able to participate. Find out more [here](#).

**Webinar for undergraduates and foundation doctors****18:00, Thursday 6 November**

Dr Matt Clarke, the College's Undergraduate and Foundation Lead, will host an interactive talk entitled 'Mystery Pathology Cases' on Thursday 6 November at 18:00. Further details will be announced soon via the College's [public events calendar](#).

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